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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/869,493	06/28/2001	Alan Anderson Hoover	RCA 89928	4206

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EXAMINER
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MICHALSKI, JUSTIN I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2644

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/869,493

Applicant(s)

HOOVER, ALAN ANDERSON

Examiner

Justin Michalski

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schott (US Patent 5,982,831).

Regarding Claim 1, Schott discloses a stereophonic expansion circuit comprising active matrixing means (Figure 2) including active amplifiers (matrices 20, 22, 26, and 28 which inherently include amplifiers) configured for matrix processing (L+R) (matrix 20) and (L-R) (matrix 22) signals for deriving L and R (Lout and Rout) stereophonic signals.

Regarding Claim 2, Schott discloses a stereophonic expansion circuit comprising active matrixing means including active amplifiers (matrices 20, 22, 26, and 28 which inherently include amplifiers) configured for matrix processing L and R stereophonic signals for deriving (L+R) (matrix 20) and (L-R) (matrix 22) signals.

Regarding Claim 3, Schott further discloses the active matrixing means (matrices 20, 22, 26, and 28) includes circuitry for adding and/or subtracting signals in proportions for deriving L and R (Lout and Rout) signals having predetermined characteristics (matrices 26 and 28 show predetermined gain characteristics).

Regarding Claim 4, Schott further discloses the active matrixing means includes circuitry for adding and/or subtracting signals in proportions for deriving (L+R) (matrix 20) and (L-R) (Matrix 22) signals having predetermined characteristics (matrices 20 and 22 show predetermined 0db gain).

Regarding Claim 5, Schott discloses a matrixing signal processing circuit (Figure 2) comprising active matrixing means (matrices 20, 22, 26, and 28) including active amplifiers having gain and arranged in a matrixing configuration (matrices inherently have amplifiers as shown in Figure 6).

Regarding Claim 6, Schott further discloses at least two of the active matrixing amplifiers are signal coupled in seriatum (matrices 20 and 22 are in series).

Regarding Claim 7, Schott discloses a stereophonic expansion circuit comprising active matrixing means including active amplifiers signal (matrices 20, 22, 26, and 28 inherently include amplifiers as shown in Figure 6) coupled in seriatum (matrices 20 and 223 are in series), configured for producing a stereo expansion effect (Lout and Rout).

Regarding Claim 8, Schott further discloses the active matrixing means included circuitry for adding and/or subtracting signals in proportions for deriving (L+R) and (L-R) signals having predetermined characteristics (Matrices 20 and 22 have predetermined gain of 0dB).

### ***Conclusion***

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin Michalski whose telephone number is (703)305-5598. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 Hours, 5 day/week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Isen can be reached on (703)305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JIM

  
XU MEI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER